

I CLAIM:

1. A machine-liftable and maneuverable, attended open cage-like load transporter for handling and promoting installation-site delivery of building-frame beam components during the construction of a plural story structural building frame, said transporter comprising

a worker occupancy volume defined by substantially horizontal floor structure which is joined to substantially upwardly extending, open, and at least partially floor-perimeter wall structure, and

disposed substantially directly overhead said floor and wall structures, generally open, horizontal, load-support deck structure adapted for the overhead supporting and load-carrying of elongate building-frame beam components, said deck structure having an open framework which is characterized whereby it is substantially freely open, in a vertical pass-through sense, to the underlying worker occupancy volume so as to accommodate load-handling personnel access, and to promote attended personnel assistance, by a worker stationed in said occupancy volume.

2. The transporter of claim 1, which has a building-frame-facing side, and wherein said deck structure is equipped with a deployable lateral extension which can be extended and withdrawn selectively and laterally outwardly from and inwardly toward said transporter's said building-frame-facing side to accommodate the delivery, toward a building frame installation site, of a transported and handled building-frame beam component.

3. The transporter of claim 1, wherein said wall and deck structures are formed of elongate, interconnected beam-like and column-like elements.

5 4. The transporter of claim 3, wherein said transporter has a building-frame-facing side, and said deck structure is equipped with a deployable lateral extension which can be extended and withdrawn selectively laterally outwardly from and inwardly toward said transporter's said building-frame-facing side to accommodate the lateral delivery toward a building frame installation site of a handled building-frame beam component.

5. The transporter of claim 4 which is designed to handle generally T-shaped beam components each including angularly intersecting and interconnected elongate cap and stem sub-components, and for this purpose said deck structure includes at least a pair of elongate, laterally spaced beam-like elements whose long axes generally extend from, the transporter's fork-receiving side toward its building-frame-facing side, which pair of beam-like elements is disposed to support the cap sub-component in such a T-shaped beam component with that cap sub-component's long axis extending generally transversely of the long axes of the beam-like elements in said pair, and said lateral extension includes an elongate beam-like cross-piece which, with the extension deployed and extending outwardly from the transporter's building-frame-facing side, is disposed to support the stem sub-component in such a T-shaped beam component with the long axis of that stem sub-component extending generally transversely relative to the long axis of said cross-piece.

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6. The transporter of claim 4 which is designed to handle elongate unilinear beam components, and for this purpose, said deck structure includes at least a pair of elongate, laterally spaced beam-like elements whose long axes generally extend from the transporter's said building-frame-facing side toward an opposite side of the transporter, which pair of beam-like elements is disposed to support such a unilinear beam component with that component's long axis extending generally transversely relative to the long axes of the beam-like elements in said pair.

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